

ELECTRICIANS TO MEET

Fourth Convention of the Workers Will Be Held Here.

HUNDREDS ARE EXPECTED

Famous Inventors Invited to Be Present—Elaborate Preparations by the Local Branch—Important Topics to Be Discussed—Features of Social Entertainment—Sketches.

Washington will have the pleasure of entertaining next November the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America, who will hold their fourth annual convention here. As the brotherhood is of comparatively recent origin and this is its first meeting at the National Capital, more than ordinary interest will attach to the gathering. The local union is making extensive preparations to play a worthy part in the occasion, and both pleasure and profit for the brethren.

Developments in the field of electricity are quite recent, as time is counted, especially in the application of the subtle substance to the every day affairs of the business and home life. To the layman the electric light, the electric motor, and the many uses to which its power is applied are still something to marvel at. Even the men who play with the lightning, as it were, and to whom volts and ohms and megohms, and short circuit and long circuit are as familiar as the alphabet, are every now and then astounded by some phenomenon which completely upsets all previous calculations and makes them seek new solutions where they are believed to have exhausted all possibilities.

The convention will be in session from November 11 to 17. The hall in which the sessions are to be held has not yet been definitely decided upon, but the choice lies between Metropolitan Hall and G. A. R. Hall. About 200 delegates will be present. Among the prominent inventors and electricians invited to attend are Thomas A. Edison, Nikola Tesla, Prof. Thomson, George A. Westinghouse, Prof. Gardner G. Hubbard, Prof. Alexander Graham Bell and George C. Maynard.

Of course the sessions of the convention will be held behind closed doors, although it is possible that the public may be admitted to some of the sessions at which new inventions will be exhibited. All these things, however, are details concerning which nothing has yet been decided.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Among the topics which will engage the delegates two are of great importance. One of these is a project to establish a new national bureau for the members of the union and their families. The other relates to making some regulations for the examination of electricians, and a bill is to be presented to Congress making it compulsory for a witness in the District of Columbia to obtain a license similar to that of a plumber.

The programme for the entertainment of the delegates has not yet been completed, but two evenings will be spent at the New National Theater and the Academy of Music, both of which will be handsomely illuminated. There will also be a torch-light procession, in which all the labor organizations of the city have consented to participate. A complete electric plant is to be in operation during this procession. The convention will wind up with a grand banquet.

Mr. R. F. Metzel is chairman of the convention committee appointed by the local union. He was born in Baltimore, May 3, 1859, and attended Knapp's Institute, where he gained some knowledge of electricity. Subsequently he learned telegraphing, and procured a situation with the Western Union Telegraph Company.

While serving in this capacity he experienced and by himself built a telegraph line from the Evening News office to Waverly, in Baltimore County, a distance of five miles, and equipped it with office, working with relays and main line batteries. Each office had its own local. During the first election of Cleveland the news of the returns was sent over this wire to the Democratic club at Waverly from the Evening News office, being taken from the Associated Press.

Subsequently Mr. Metzel worked for the Viaduct Manufacturing Company, after which he came to Washington and is now working for M. C. Schneider, No. 1207 F street northwest. He is the son of George V. Metzel, the founder of the Improved Order of Heptasophs.

FIRST ORGANIZATION.
The electrical industry is practically new, and consequently an organization of electrical workers must be something of very recent date. In 1881 the first organization of electrical workers was started among the linemen, but a very thorough organization was not effected until only a few weeks were started, all of the returns were sent over this wire to the Democratic club at Waverly from the Evening News office, being taken from the Associated Press.

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For a while this organization prospered and was in a flourishing condition, but owing to the fact that the distance between the cities was great, and also that membership was limited to linemen, exclusively, the organization seemed incapable of making further progress, and consequently began to decline.

In 1880 a number of unions known as linemen and wiremen's unions were organized under the American Federation of Labor, and, later, one or two under the Knights of Labor. The first of these unions was organized in St. Louis in 1880, and was known as No. 5221, A. F. of L. Mr. Henry Miller, who afterward became the first president of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, was one of the active agents that started this union. No. 5221 grew quite rapidly, and in the spring of 1891 Mr. Miller conceived the idea of

a national organization, and promised to do what he could toward organizing such a union.

ORGANIZED UNIONS ELSEWHERE.
He left St. Louis, and, on his own resources, by working in different cities, organized unions in Louisville, Evansville, Indianapolis, Chicago and Milwaukee. During the same time the St. Louis union appointed an organizing committee, which was in correspondence with the different unions, and sent out invitations for a national convention. St. Louis was the city selected, and the call was issued for a convention to meet on November 1, 1891. On that date St. Louis, Evansville, Indianapolis, Toledo and Chicago were represented by delegates, and Philadelphia, Milwaukee and Duluth by proxies, making ten delegates present, representing eight unions and about 300 members.

The convention was in session for one week, and organized the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, prepared a constitution, ritual and all other paraphernalia necessary for a national organization. Henry Miller, who was so active in establishing the organization, was elected the first president of the brotherhood.

Immediately after the convention President Miller went to Birmingham, Ala., to attend a convention of the American Federation of Labor and make arrangements for affiliation with that body. While in that city he organized a union and proceeded to New Orleans and initiated the existing union in that city into the brotherhood. From New Orleans he visited several large cities, organizing unions in each one. When the next convention, which met in Chicago in November, 1892, was held the number of unions included in the brotherhood had increased to forty-three.

This convention was very successful, and before its close the Electrical Union of New York city, known as No. 5468, A. F. of L., made application to the convention for a charter, which was granted, and the union took place as No. 2 in the brotherhood. At this convention the death benefits for both members and their wives were decided, and the executive board was increased from five to nine members. It was also decided to start an official journal at the beginning of the year 1893.

At this convention Henry Miller was re-elected grand president. During the second year of the brotherhood's existence the grand president was on the road all the time organizing unions, and at the time the third annual convention met in Cleveland, Ohio, there was a total of sixty-five unions owing allegiance to the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

A number of amendments were made to

the other unions in these cities are composed principally of linemen. All the others are mixed unions—that is, composed of all classes of electrical workers. The unions in Schenectady, N. Y., and Lynn, Mass., are composed entirely of the employees of the General Electric Company, as the main factories of that company are located in those cities.

Since the last convention a number of changes have been made in the grand officers. First Grand Vice President N. Duff died, and Grand President Q. Jansen resigned on account of retiring from the electrical business to engage in another enterprise.

Second Grand Vice President H. W. Sherman, of Rochester, succeeded to the presidency and will act in that capacity until the next convention. W. C. Prickett and Henry Miller also resigned on account of engaging in other business. The vacancies were filled by appointment to serve out the unexpired terms as follows: John Hirsch, of St. Louis; C. L. White, of Chicago; T. E. McCarthy, of Boston, and W. C. Shuart, of Detroit. In March last C. L. White was also appointed grand organizer, and is now on the road attending to the duties of his office.

The brotherhood passed through the panic better than any other labor organization, and is today both numerically and financially stronger than ever before in its history, and as new unions are rapidly being organized it will only be a short time until there is one in every city of the United States where there are electrical workers enough to secure a charter.

OBJECTS OF THE BROTHERHOOD.

The objects of the brotherhood are clearly set forth in the constitution of the brotherhood, from which the following is quoted:

"Section 1. The objects of the National Brotherhood are, namely: To rescue our trade from the low level to which it has fallen, and by mutual effort to place ourselves on a foundation sufficiently strong to prevent further encroachments. To establish an apprenticeship system, to maintain a high standard of skill, to encourage the formation of schools of instruction in labor unions for teaching the practical application of electricity, and for trade education generally, to cultivate feelings of friendship among the men of the craft, to settle all disputes between employers and employees by arbitration, to assist each other in sickness and distress, to secure employment, to reduce the hours of daily labor, to secure adequate pay for the work, and by legal and proper means to elevate the

condition of the electrical worker in every part of the world."

H. W. SHERMAN, THIRD G. P.

He has been for several years working for the Rochester Gas Light and Electric Company.

GRAND ORGANIZER F. PATRICK.
F. W. Fitzpatrick was born at Golden, Colo., a few miles from Denver, where his mother yet resides. He worked for a number of years for both the telephone and electric light companies through the West, but contrary to Horace Greeley's advice, he never East and settled in Philadelphia, where he has held responsible positions for a number of years. He was for several years connected with the Electrical Bureau of Philadelphia, which position he resigned for a more lucrative one with the International Tinners Company. As a further reward of merit, he has recently secured a responsible position in the electrical department of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

C. L. WHITE

C. L. White was born in New England, but came West in 1863, and settled in Chicago, where he worked for the Edison Company for

several years, and still have a large share in directing its affairs.

HENRY MILLER, FIRST GRAND PRESIDENT.

Henry Miller, first grand president of the brotherhood, was born at Frederickburg, Gillette county, Texas, on January 5, 1858, and passed his early years on a ranch in the wilds of Texas. His first work in the electrical business was in the employ of the United States government, building a telegraph line from San Antonio, Tex., to Fort Clark, and later intermediate points connecting all the military posts along the Rio Grande. In 1875 he started to work for the Western Union Telegraph Company, and worked under foremen and superintendents all through the Southwest. He next had charge of the telegraph lines of the Morgan district, and afterward a division on the Santa Fe, when he received the appointment of assistant superintendent for the Erie Telegraph Company in the Southwest district, remaining with them for six years. Desiring to make a change, he left their employ in 1885, and since that time he has been working steadily with the electric companies in several different cities. He was with the Municipal Electric Light Company, of St. Louis, from June, 1886, until May, 1890, as foreman. In the latter years he assisted in organizing the first union of electrical workers, in St. Louis, since which time he has devoted nearly all his time to the brotherhood.

QUINN JANSEN, SECOND G. P.
Quinn Jansen, second grand president, was born in Milwaukee, Wis., and has lived nearly all his life in that city. When the telephone was first introduced in Milwaukee, he started to work for the telephone company, gradually advancing to be foreman, and finally general superintendent, which position he held for a number of years. In 1893 he resigned from the telephone company to enter into the construction business in partnership with Peter Keedy and Albert Smith, the partners being No. 2. During the summer of 1894 Brother Jansen retired from active work in the electrical business, and resigned his office of grand president. Brother Jansen would be a good model for electrical workers to follow. He has not only earned good wages, but has saved his money, and is today probably worth more in the country of the realm than any other electrical mechanic in the United States, and can spend the remaining years of his life without worrying himself about work.

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COMING BY THOUSANDS

Knights of the Golden Eagle to Meet in This City.

FACTS ABOUT THE ORDER

It is a Benevolent Secret Society Whose Influence Is Felt in Every State, Young in Years, but of Great Dimensions—Objects of the Great Coming Convention.

Information received in this city from the various jurisdictions indicates that a healthy interest is being taken in the meeting here on October 8, of the Supreme Castle of the Knights of the Golden Eagle.

The order was founded in Baltimore, Md., February 6, 1873, by John E. Borge, and the first Grand Castle was formed shortly afterward, and subordinate castles followed.

It is a secret, benevolent, helpful, social, and semi-military order, and has now a membership of over 150,000, divided among about 1,000 castles.

The primary objects of the order are to promote the principles of true benevolence, by associating its members together for the purpose of mutual relief against the trials and difficulties attending sickness, distress and death, so far as they may be mitigated by sympathy and pecuniary



Henry T. Adams, Grand Chief.

assistance to care for and protect the widows and orphans of members; to assist those out of employment; to encourage each other in business; to ameliorate the condition of humanity in every possible manner; to stimulate moral and mental culture; and, by wholesome precepts, fraternal counsel, and social intercourse, elevate the membership and advance it toward a higher and nobler life.

The organization of the order consists of Supreme, Grand, and subordinate castles, and is especially adapted for all, be they rich or poor. It has for its motto "Fidelity, Valor and Honor."

The ritualistic work consists of three degrees, viz.: First, of Pilgrims, Second, of Knights, and Third, of Crusaders. The three degrees are symbolic of a soldier battling for his faith. He is first a pilgrim, then a knight, and finally a crusader.

The social feature is one of the characteristics of this order, and has greatly assisted in increasing its membership. Castles generally confer one degree at a session, devoting one meeting each month to social entertainments, for the improvement of the members and the development of the principles upon which the order is founded. Families are thus brought into closer relationship with each other, whereby the bonds of fidelity, valor and honor are more widely extended.

Although it is not obligatory for the members of the order to connect themselves with the military branch, the young men in the order look upon it as a worthy field of being encouraged. These commodities are of the order, and are formed after the style of military companies, and equipped with regulation of fatigue uniform as they prefer.

The death benefit fund is composed of members in good standing of subordinate castles between the ages of eighteen and forty years, and is a most valuable fund, temples between the ages of sixteen and forty-five, who must pass a medical examination previous to their admission.

WOMEN AMONG THEM.

Temples are composed of ladies not less than sixteen years of age. Members of the order are also eligible to membership. The regulation uniform consists of black coat and pants, and a black chapeau trimmed with gold lace and appropriate emblems, with three ornate plumes—white, purple and yellow. Badge of royal purple velvet trimmed with gold lace, buff fringe and escutcheons. Belt of royal purple velvet or leather, appro-

riately trimmed and with emblematic clasp. Sword, cross handle, purple and gold striped, spread eagle on top; gilt scabbard, suitably ornamented. Cuffs of buff enameled leather and ornamented. Gloves of buff kid or thread. Fatigue cap with gold band edged with purple velvet and crest of the order in front. The fatigue costume consists of coat, pantaloons, fatigue cap, sword and buff gloves and badge.

The regalia of the order is simple and consists of a handsome gold plated badge, with ribbon attached, the color of which denotes the degree of the wearer, and is worn upon the left breast.

LOCAL COMMANDERIES.
There are in Washington six castles, namely: Cyrus, No. 1; Monarch, No. 2; America, No. 3; Mount Vernon, No. 5; Potomac, No. 6; and Fidelity, No. 7.

The temples are Washington, No. 1, Mrs. M. Myers, chief temple; Monarch, No. 2, Mrs. Adelle Collinsworth, chief temple; America, No. 3, Mrs. Ella Scott, chief temple.

The grand officers are William H. Signer, G. C. H. T. C. C. Katter, G. M. of R. G. C. G. A. Warren, G. M. of R. C. B. Bauman, G. C. of E. J. E. Toome, G. S. H. A. Worth, G. H. P.; William Smith, G. first G. A. C. McClain, G. second G. In the District of Columbia there are 1,000 members.

C. KOTTELMANN, JR., Grand Vice Chief.

He is a well known and successful business man, and has been for many years in the employ of the United States government, where he has held positions of great responsibility. He is a member of the order, and has been for many years a prominent member of the local commandery.

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AMUSEMENTS.

KERNAN'S LYCEUM THEATER.
BEGINNING TO-MORROW NIGHT AT 8. Matinees Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

GEO. W. TURNER'S

Vaudeville Company,
—HEADED BY—

MIKE LEONARD,

The "BEAU BRUMMEL" of the prize ring.

An aggregation of high-class specialty artists, including:

PRINCESS KOUTA KOUTA,
The Sensational Marvel,
THE QUAKER CITY QUARTETTE,
The Original,
THE EMMETTS,
Comedy Boomers,
FLORENCE MILLER,
The Southern Beauty,
MARION and MARION,
Athletic Stars.

NOTE—Leonard will forfeit \$50 to any one in his class whom he fails to beat in four rounds.

Next Week—MIACOS CITY CLUB CO.

COMING TO THE THEATERS.

The National Theater will reopen on Monday, September 9. The opening attraction will be Emily Ranker, in "Our Flat." The play is a farce comedy which follows entirely an original idea. It deals with the troubles which arise from the installment plan of buying household furniture and depicts, in a life-like manner, the exiles attendant on that system in a particularly ridiculous manner.

A young married couple of a literary turn of mind, having started housekeeping in a flat with mutual love as their capital became, through their imprudence, involved with various tradesmen, and their efforts to keep up appearances and evade their creditors get them into many embarrassing situations. They have more difficulty with the man who sold them their furniture than with anyone else, and the climax is reached when he removes everything belonging to them, and they are expediting a visit from a theatrical manager, who is about to purchase a play they have written.

Not to be outdone, however, they improve, with the aid of curtains, draperies, etc., chairs, tables, and sofas, out of boxes and barrels. Many mishaps occur with these makeshifts, and of course, everything turns out all right in the end, when the play is accepted and they are started on the road to prosperity.

The company, which is an extremely clever one, is headed by Miss Emily Ranker, a young actress who has been successful as a comedienne. Last season she starred in the same play. Previous to that she was leading lady for the late Rosina Vokes and for several seasons was prominent in a number of Charles Frohman's original productions.

Mike Leonard, better known as the "Beau Brummel" of the prize ring, will be seen at Kernan's Lyceum next week in conjunction with Geo. W. Turner's Vaudeville Company. This organization, although comparatively new to the public, is decidedly above the ordinary, containing as it does many high-class artists whose reputations in their respective lines extend throughout the country. In fact, there is seldom an attraction comes to Washington with so many real features in its make-up.

Among the names appearing in the program are Marion and Marion, the twenty-sixth century comedienne; Lillian and Lillian, acrobatic and musical dancers; The Emmetts, refined sketch artists; Magee and Grimmins, in their stunning farce, entitled, the "Boxing Lesson"; O'Brien and Buckley, musical comedians; Miss Florence Miller, in "The Southern Beauty"; The Original Quaker City Quartette; Alice Gilmore, the charming vocalist and Little Lillian Emmet, the child artist.

Mike Leonard will appear at every performance in a scientific sparring contest during this engagement. He will be open to meet all comers in the class of weight for \$250 to anyone who fails to beat him in four rounds. There will be matinees Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Robert Downer, the favorite American tragedian, will open his season and that of the Grand Opera House in this city on Monday evening of next week, when he will appear in a grand production, the first in English, of Victoria Sardou's romantic play, "Helena." It is said this play is superior to anything ever produced in this country from that eminent author. It will be one of the handsomest productions of the year. Nothing will be spared to make it perfect in scenery, music, properties, costumes, lights, and company.

The part that Mr. Downer will play in "Helena" suits him, it is said, as well as the Gladiator. In the Parisian production it was acted by that celebrated French artist, M. Lafontaine, who made a great hit in it.

The supporting company is led by that beautiful and talented actress, Eugenie Blair, who will wear some magnificent gowns in the part of Helena, said to be masterpieces of the dressmaker's art.

The other members of the company are Edwin Ferry, Charles Collier, J. E. Amory, J. A. Koller, Alex. McKenzie, Walter Barton, Mrs. F. M. Bates, Miss Fannie Hunt, and Miss Nettie Baker. The past week has been spent in rehearsing, and Mr. Downer is more than pleased at the way in which the members of his company have worked, and is satisfied with another week's rehearsal that a perfect and finished performance of "Helena" will be given on the opening night of his engagement.

Homer Lind, after spending two months in the Kensington waters in Germany, has returned the Carl Rosa English Opera Company at the Gaiety Theater, Dublin, Ireland, where "Hans and Gretel" is being produced. Mr. Lind writes that he is working hard, but hopes soon to again reach America and Washington.

Mr. Geoffrey Stein leaves to-day for New York city to begin rehearsals with the Marie Wainwright Company. Mr. Stein plays "Touchstone" in "As You Like It," "Topsy" in "The Merry Wives of Windsor," and "The Merry Wives of Windsor."

The grand officers are William H. Signer, G. C. H. T. C. C. Katter, G. M. of R. G. C. G. A. Warren, G. M. of R. C. B. Bauman, G. C. of E. J. E. Toome, G. S. H. A. Worth, G. H. P.; William Smith, G. first G. A. C. McClain, G. second G. In the District of Columbia there are 1,000 members.

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